



Older Americans Act - Brief Overview

Presented for the Older Vermonters Act Working Group

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Older Americans Act

- Passed in 1965, along with Medicare and Medicaid
- Calls for creation of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and supports for older Americans
- Services targeted to those 60+ in “greatest economic and social need”
- Act contains 7 Titles:
 - Title I: Declaration of Objectives**
 - Title II: Administration on Aging
 - Title III: Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging**
 - Title IV: Activities for Health, Independence, and Longevity
 - Title V: Community Service Senior Opportunities Act**
 - Title VI: Grants for Native Americans
 - Title VII: Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities**

Title I: Declaration of Objectives

Older Americans have the right to:

- Adequate income
- Physical and mental health
- Affordable, accessible housing
- Comprehensive community-based long-term care options
- Employment opportunity without discrimination
- Retirement in health, honor and dignity
- Meaningful opportunity for civic, educational and recreational activities
- Efficient community services, including transportation and social supports
- Benefits from proven research knowledge for health and happiness
- Self-determination, full participation in planning services for their benefit
- Protection against abuse, neglect and exploitation

Title III: Grants for States and Community Programs

- Role of the State Unit on Aging (SUA)
- Role of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- Services authorized by Title III:
 - Supportive Services
 - Nutrition Services
 - Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Programs
 - Family Caregiver Support Services

Title V: Community Service Senior Opportunities Act

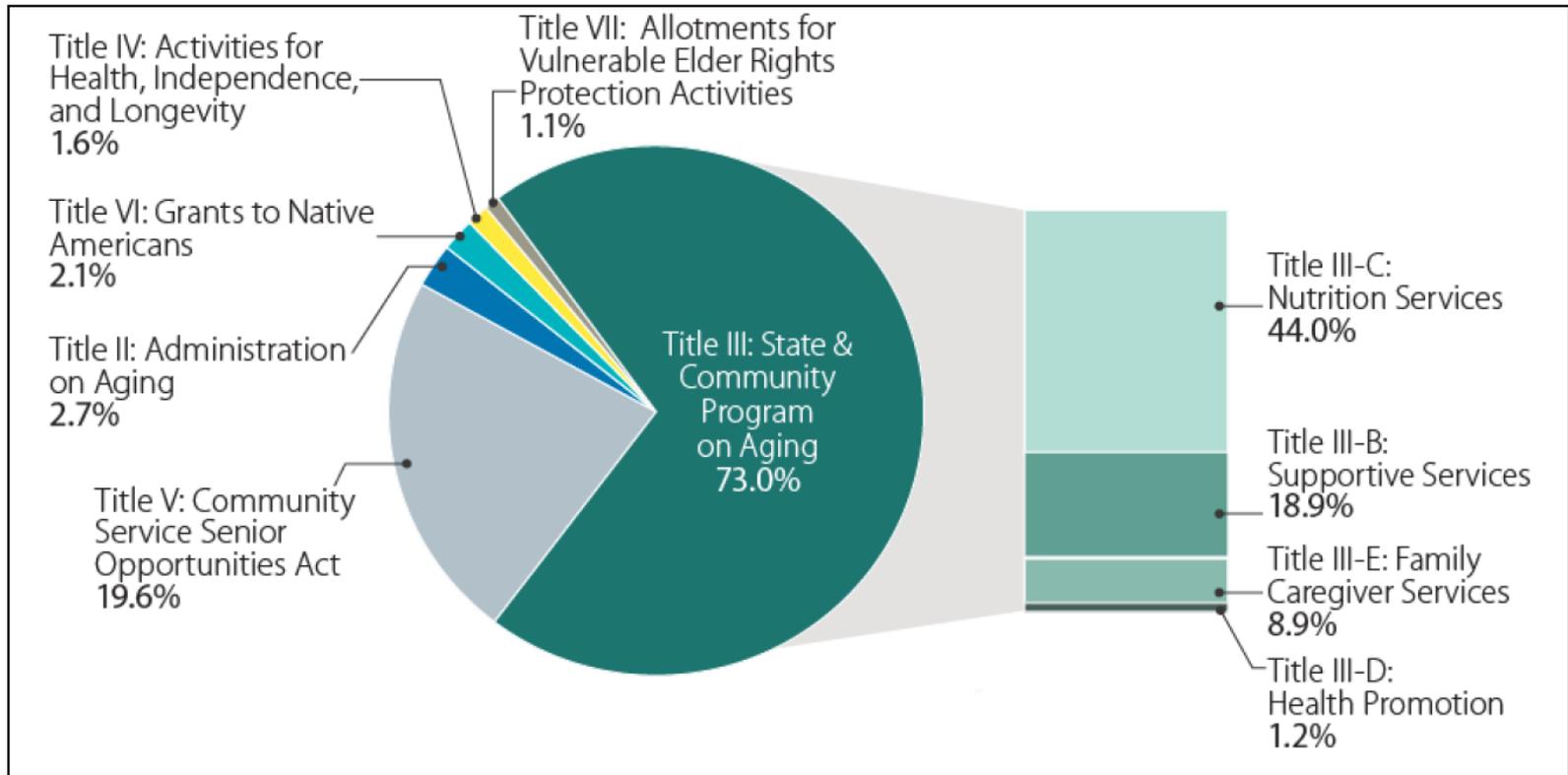
- Funds Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), supporting low-income older workers with training and supported employment

Title VII: Elder Rights & Protections

- Role of the Legal Assistance Developer
- Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
- Prevention of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation

OAA Funding

Figure 2. Older Americans Act, FY2018 Discretionary Appropriations
(funding as a percentage of total OAA funding, \$2.038 billion)



OAA Snapshot in Vermont

In 2017:

- Approx. 60,000 older Vermonters were served by OAA Title III programs through the Area Agencies on Aging and community providers.
- 7,000 received case management (Choices for Care, Moderate Needs, self-neglect, veteran directed, etc.)
- 20,000 older Vermonters received nutritious meals (in community or home-delivered).
- 3,500 participated in health promotion/disease prevention education and exercise.
- Over 300 family caregivers received information, support and respite.

Partnership & Collaboration is Key!



+ many partner agencies in federal, state & local government



VT Association of Adult Day Services



And many more!!!

State Plan on Aging 2019-2022

- A blueprint to guide our work for the next four years. To be launched this October.
- 3 Main Goal Areas:
 - Healthy Aging for All
 - Core OAA Programs for Those in Greatest Need
 - Elder Justice & Protections

Thank you!

Questions?

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Act 172

“An act relating to creating an Older Vermonters Act working group”



Signed on
5/25/18.

Outline of the Act

Section 1: Findings and purpose

Section 2: Definitions

Section 3: Membership, powers and duties, assistance, report, meetings, compensation and reimbursement

Section 4: Effective date

Purpose

Develop recommendations for an Older Vermonters Act that align with:

- Older Americans Act (OAA)
- Vermont State Plan on Aging (SPA)
- Choices for Care Program (CFC)

Recommendations should address both:

- The value of older Vermonters to our communities
- The service and support needs they may have

Group must report recommendations to the legislature by 12/1/19.

Recommendations shall address:

1. Authority & responsibilities of DAIL as SUA and re: management of CFC.
2. Role & responsibilities of AAAs as regional planning organizations for older Vermonters & caregivers.
3. Description of a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and supports for older Vermonters and family caregivers,
 - A. Description of how it will be coordinated across state agencies, provider networks and geographic regions, and
 - B. Description of how it will ensure services target those in greatest economic and social need.
4. Ways to encourage older Vermonters to work, volunteer or engage in community, and ways to educate employers about the value of older workers, a multi-gen workforce, and models for replication across sectors/industries.